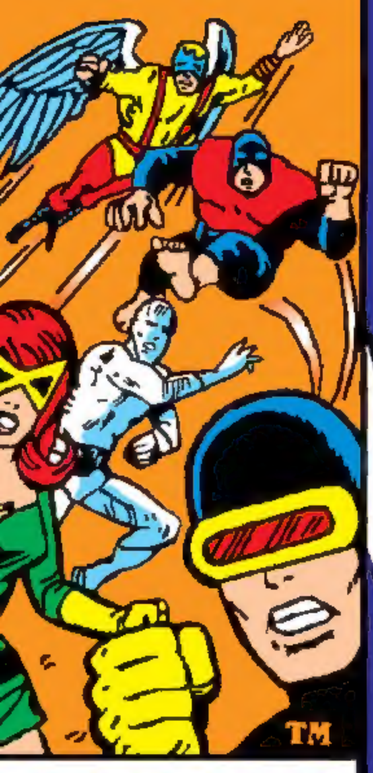

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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The X-MEN™ FEATURING:

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The ANGEL

"RED RAVEN, RED RAVEN!"

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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

"RED RAVEN, RED RAVEN...!"

DECISIVELY DEFEATED ON THE ISLAND STRONGHOLD OF MAGNETO, THE X-MEN MAY FINALLY HAVE REACHED THE END OF THEIR COLORFUL CAREERS... BUT, JUST BETWEEN US MERRY MUTANT WATCHERS, DON'T COUNT 'EM OUT YET!

AS IT WAS *DESTINED*... THE ONCE MIGHTY X-MEN NOW LIE HELPLESS *BEFORE* ME... IN *DEFEAT!*

YES, MASTER... *YES!* NOW YOU MUST *SLAY THEM*, MASTER!

OH, YES... YES! SLAY THEM EVERY *ONE!*

CREDITS:
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INKED BY..*JOHN TARTAGLIONE*
LETTERED BY..*SAM ROSEN*
(OH, YEAH, AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE STICKLERS FOR *DETAILS*, THIS MUTANT MASTERWORK WAS *PLOTTED* BY *ROY THOMAS!*)

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WAIT! SURELY THE MASTER OF ALL MUTANTS WOULD NOT STOOP TO SO LOW AN ACT AS COLD-BLOODED MURDER!

WHAT? YOU DARE TO DISPUTE THE DECISION OF MAGNETO?

OF COURSE HE DOES, MASTER... BUT DO NOT HEED HIS WORDS!

THE X-MEN ARE YOUR ENEMIES! YOU MUST KILL THEM... NOW!

YOU NEED BUT GIVE ME THE SIGNAL... AND I, YOUR MOST LOYAL SERVANT, WILL DO AWAY WITH THEM FOREVER!

NO!

QUICKSILVER IS RIGHT! I CANNOT LET SO GREAT A TRIUMPH SLIP FROM MY GRASP IN A MERE INSTANT!

I MUST HAVE TIME TO SAVOR THE SWEET NECTAR OF VICTORY!

BESIDES, AFTER SUFFERING SO CRUSHING A DEFEAT... WHO KNOWS...

...THE ACCURSED X-MEN MAY EVEN DECIDE TO JOIN US! THEY UNQUESTIONABLY COULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO OUR CAUSE!

HOWEVER, SINCE IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO LET THEM LIVE... I WILL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM, QUICKSILVER!

VERY WELL... BUT, IF THAT IS TO BE THE CASE, THEY MUST BE SECURELY IMPRISONED!

OF THAT YOU MAY REST ASSURED! TOAD, PLACE THE PRISONERS IN THE SPECIAL CONFINING APPARATUS I HAVE DESIGNED FOR THEM!

OF COURSE, MASTER! YOU HAVE ONLY TO COMMAND... AND THE TOAD WILL ACT!

THEN, WITHIN MOMENTS...

THERE IS NO MIND WITHIN LIVING *MAN* TO COMPARE WITH THAT OF THE *MASTER!* WHO *ELSE* WOULD HAVE INVENTED THIS *LEAD SHIELD* TO COVER THE EYES OF *CYCLOPS?*

AND HE *ALSO* REMEMBERED TO HAVE ME DISCONNECT CYCLOPS' *GLOVE CONTROLS!*

AND THESE *HYPNO-MAGNETIC BANDS*...WHICH WILL PREVENT *MARVEL GIRL* FROM USING HER TELEKINETIC POWERS...

...*MORE* SHEER GENIUS FROM THE MIND OF *MAGNETO!*

THE MASTER, AND NO ONE *ELSE*, WAS ABLE TO INVENT *TITANIUM HANDCUFFS*... TO HELPLESSLY SHACKLE THE MUTANT CALLED ...THE *BEAST!*

AND THE SHEER BRILLIANCE OF HOLDING *THE ANGEL* IN A HIGHLY-ELECTRIFIED CAGE COULD ONLY EMANATE FROM MAGNETO'S *BRAIN!*

THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR THE *THERMO-NUCLEAR HEAT TUBE* HE DESIGNED TO HOLD *ICEMA*... PRISONER!

YES...IN ALL THE *WORLD*, NO ONE BUT HE COULD DEFEAT AND HOLD CAPTIVE THE *X-MEN!*

AND NONE IS MORE *PROUD* TO SERVE MAGNETO... THAN THE EVER-FAITH-FUL *TOAD!*

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FINALLY, SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, AS THE X-MEN REGAIN *CONSCIOUSNESS*...

WELL, IN THE WORDS OF A FAMOUS POET WHOSE IDENTITY *ESCAPES* ME --- "BIRDS OF A *FEATHER*..."

NO...IT IS NOT WHAT YOU *THINK!*

WANDA...*THE SCARLET WITCH!* THEN IT'S TRUE... YOU AND YOUR BROTHER *HAVE* JOINED FORCES WITH *MAGNETO!*

NOT *EXACTLY*... BUT PERHAPS I CAN MAKE OUR POSITION MORE *CLEAR!*

FOR FAR TOO *LONG* HAVE MY SISTER AND I SUFFERED THE INDIGNITIES DEALT US BY *HOMO SAPIENS*...

...THEREFORE, WE HAVE DECIDED OUR ONLY CAUSE IS THAT OF OUR *OWN RACE*... THE RACE OF *HOMO SUPERIOR!*

YEAH...WE'VE HEARD THAT STORY *BEFORE*... FROM A GUY NAMED *CHARLIE BROWN!*

VERY WELL...LAUGH AT US IF YOU *WILL!*

BUT, MARK MY WORDS...THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU WILL *REGRET* HAVING ABANDONED YOUR OWN *KIND!*

COME, MY SISTER! THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY TALKING WITH PIG-HEADED *TEEN-AGERS!*

MEANWHILE, IN THE LABORATORY OF *MAGNETO*...

MASTER...*MASTER!* QUICKSILVER AND THE X-MEN ARE *ARGUING*... *FIGHTING!* I FEAR IT CAN ONLY COME TO *ILL* FOR US!

HMMMM... PERHAPS YOU ARE *RIGHT!* PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE *DESTROYED* THE X-MEN!

HOWEVER, AS THE MASTER OF ALL EVIL MUTANTS PONDERS THE WISDOM OF HIS DEALINGS WITH THE X-MEN...

ONE OF US HAS TO BREAK FREE... BUT, THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY HOPE... UNLESS...

...THAT GLEAMING OBJECT... JUST OUTSIDE MY CAGE! IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF FANCY FLASHLIGHT!

IN A SPOT LIKE THIS... CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS ANY-THING, THOUGH!

IF ONLY I CAN REACH IT... WITHOUT BEING ELECTRO-CUTED ON THE BARS OF THIS CAGE...

...ALMOST HAVE IT... JUST A LITTLE MORE...

GOT IT! NOW, IT SEEMS TO HAVE A CONTROL BUTTON ON TOP!

I'LL JUST PUSH IT AND SEE... IT'S DISINTEGRATING THE BARS!

THEN, WITHIN A MERE FEW SECONDS...

I..I'M FREE! IT'S LIKE THE ANSWER TO A PRAYER!

IF ONLY I CAN FREE THE OTHERS NOW...

DON'T WORRY, SCOTTY, LAD! I'LL HAVE YOU LOOSE IN...

WAIT! IT'S BEEN TOO EASY! THIS MUST BE SOME SORT OF TRAP!

BUT, EVEN IF IT IS... WE CAN'T PASS UP THE CHANCE FOR ONE OF US TO BREAK OUT AND GO FOR HELP!

SO TAKE OFF, BIRDMAN... HEAD FOR.. AVENGERS HQ! IF THEY CAN'T HELP US...

...NOBODY CAN!

YOU OUGHTTA KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAY-ING, DEPUTY LEADER... SO I'LL DO WHAT I CAN!

UH OH... I GOT A FEELING THIS WINDOW WASN'T MADE FOR MUTANTS WITH A SIX-FOOT WING-SPAN!

BETTER TRY AND FIND ANOTHER WAY OUTTA HERE!

THEN, AS THE WINGED-MUTANT TURNS FROM THE NARROW WINDOW TO SEEK ANOTHER ROUTE OF *ESCAPE*...

MASTER! ONE OF THEM IS *FREE!* YOU MUST *STOP* HIM... *UNNNGGHHH!*

ONLY WAY OUT IS PAST *MAGNETO!* GOTTA HOPE I CAN FLY FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP AHEAD OF HIS *MAGNETIC BOLTS!*

IF I *CAN'T*... THE LAST HOPE FOR THE X-MEN IS DOWN THE OLD *DRAIN!*

QUICKSILVER! YOU MUST NOW *PROVE* YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO ME! *APPREHEND* THE X-MAN KNOWN AS ANGEL... *QUICKLY!*

AS YOU *WISH*, MAGNETO! IT SHOULD BE NO *PROBLEM* FOR ME... SINCE I RECENTLY GAINED THE POWER OF *FLIGHT!**

*AS PEERLESSLY PORTRAYED IN *AVENGERS #.P?!*...SORRY-ABOUT-THAT STAN.

WHAT IN... QUICKSILVER'S FLYING *AFTER* ME! SINCE WHEN CAN *HE* MAKE LIKE A KITE?

WELL, THE PROF ALWAYS SAID TO ACT *NOW*... AND THINK *LATER*, SO...

A SERIES OF COMPLICATED LOOPS AND *BARREL-ROLLS* OUGHTTA THROW HIM OFF!

HE IS MUCH MORE SKILLED IN THE ART OF *AEROBATICS* THAN I...

...AND I CANNOT REMAIN *AIRBORNE* FOR BUT MORE THAN A *FEW SECONDS!*

THEN...

IT IS *USELESS!* I MUST RETURN TO THE GROUND WHILE I HAVE ENOUGH *MOMENTUM* REMAINING TO PERMIT ME A *SOFT LANDING!*

I HAVE *FAILED*... BUT, SOMEHOW, I CANNOT *REGRET* IT!

AND, AS THE FLEET-FOOTED EX-AVENGER RETURNS TO THE ISLAND STRONGHOLD OF *MAGNETO*...

EVEN AFTER THAT *UNQUESTIONABLE PROOF* THAT QUICK-SILVER HAS JOINED MAGNETO, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D DESERT THE...

...*THAT'S IT!* THAT'S WHO I CAN ASK FOR *HELP!*

I'LL RETURN TO NEW YORK AND GO DIRECTLY TO *AVENGERS' HEADQUARTERS!* IF *THEY* CAN'T AID US...

...BUT I'D BETTER JUST CONCENTRATE ON *MAKING* IT TO NEW YORK FOR NOW!

IT'S A LONG WAY...AND THERE'S A WHALE OF A *STORM* BREWING!

THE STRONG HEAD-WINDS ARE MAKING ME *TIRE* MORE QUICKLY THAN I NORMALLY WOULD...

...AND I CAN'T SEEM TO GET *UNDER* THE STORM!

MY ONLY HOPE'S TO FIND SOME PLACE TO *REST*...UNTIL THE STORM *PASSES!*

AND THERE IT *IS*...THAT *ROCK* BELOW...JUTTING OUT OF THE *OCEAN!*

THEN, MOMENTS LATER, HIS WINGS THROBBING FROM OVER-EXERTION AGAINST THE FURIOUS GALES, THE ANGEL GRABS THE TINY PIECE OF *CORAL* WHICH PROTRUDES FROM THE SWIRLING WATERS LIKE A LONELY VICTIM IN THE MIDST OF AN ANGRY *MOB*...

SO...*TIRED!* WINGS FEEL AS IF...THEY'LL DROP OFF! MUST HANG ON, THOUGH!

EVERYTHING PROFESSOR X *LIVED* FOR...DEPENDS ON IT! AND I MUSTN'T *FAIL* HIM!

FOR, IF *I* DIE HERE...THEN THE *REST* OF THE X-MEN WILL PERISH AT THE HANDS OF *MAGNETO!* AND I CAN'T LET THAT *HAPPEN*...I *CAN'T!*

SUDDENLY, HOWEVER, THE STORM SUBSIDES...AND A RUMBLING LIKE THAT OF A *THOUSAND CANNONS* SHATTERS THE AIR...

AS THE TINY PIECE OF ROCK TO WHICH THE ANGEL CLINGS SUDDENLY RISES FROM THE OCEAN...AND A NEW *ISLAND* IS BORN!

THEN, AS THE UPWARD THRUST OF THE NEW LAND MASS *SUBSIDES*...

THIS IS---*INCREDIBLE!* I'VE WITNESSED THE BIRTH OF AN *ISLAND*...BUT I'VE NO TIME TO... *WHAT'S THAT?*

A HUGE *METAL DOOR* OPENING! IT SEEMS TO GUARD THE ENTRANCE TO SOME SORT OF *CAVE!*

BUT, EVEN THOUGH I'M DRIVEN BY CURIOSITY TO *EXPLORE* IT, I KNOW I *MUSTN'T!*

THE LIVES OF MY DEAREST *FRIENDS* ARE AT STAKE! STILL...

...MAGNETO WANTS US TO *JOIN* HIM! HE WON'T HARM THE OTHERS FOR A *WHILE!* THEREFORE, I *HAVE* TO GO INTO THE CAVE...AND LEARN WHAT THIS IS ALL *ABOUT!*

AND, SECONDS LATER, THE WINGED-PROTEGE OF *CHARLES XAVIER* STANDS IN THE CENTER OF AN AWESOME SCIENTIFIC COMPLEX, THE LIKES OF WHICH HAVE BEEN VIEWED BY NEITHER MAN NOR MUTANT *BEFORE*...

SHEESH! THIS IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A *RAY BRADBURY* NOVEL ...A VAST COMPLEX OF MACHINERY...OR PERHAPS *WEAPONS!*

MAYBE IT'S *HYDRA'S* ISLAND COMPLEX THAT *NICK FURY* THOUGHT HE DESTROYED A FEW MONTHS AGO!*

IF IT *IS*, I'D BETTER GET A CLOSER *LOOK*... SO I CAN NOTIFY *SHIELD* BEFORE...

*IN *STRANGE TALES #158!* ...STRANGE-FAN STAN.

YOU WILL NOTIFY *NO ONE*, EARTHLING... UNLESS YOU WOULD FIRST DEFEAT *RED RAVEN!*

WHA..? EITHER I'M SO POOPED FROM MY ORDEAL IN THE STORM THAT I'M *HALLUCINATING*...

...OR SOME COSTUMED CLOWN'S TRYING TO CUT IN ON MY *FLYING SCENE!* NOT THAT IT'LL DO HIM ANY... =UUNNNHHHHH!=

FOOL! PERHAPS I CAN TEACH YOU THE FOLLY OF CHALLEN-GING THE SUPREME RACE OF BIRDMEN!

KRAK!

HE PACKS...SOME KIND OF A *WALLOP!* ONLY HOPE...IS TO...*GRAB* HIS WINGS!

I MUST *WARN* YOU, EARTHLING...THAT, IN SPITE OF YOUR ABILITY TO FLY, YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR *ME!*

BUT, IN CASE YOU STILL *DISBELIEVE* ME, LET THIS CRUSHING BLOW SERVE AS RAW *PROOF* OF THE POINT I WISH TO MAKE!

BRAK!

FOR NO MAN WAS MEANT TO EVER *ENTER* THIS SANCTUARY...AND PERHAPS NOW I SHOULD SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT LIVE TO *TELL* OF IT!

MY PEOPLE ARE NOT OF THE NATURE TO *KILL*... BUT ONLY *I* CAN PROTECT THE SECRET OF THEIR *EXISTENCE*...

ZAPT

PHEW! JUST MISSED THAT BLAST FROM HIS GUN! HAVE TO ACT *QUICKLY*... OR IT'S BYE BYE *ANGEL!*

AND, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I JUST CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

BRAK!

ZZZT!

THERE! NOW THAT I'VE GAINED THE UPPER HAND, I CAN'T LET UP FOR A SECOND!

AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THE FIRST THING I'D BETTER DO IS GET THAT ZAPPIN' DUMA-WHITCHIT AWAY FROM HIM!

MY WEAPON! YOU HAVE SOMEHOW WRESTED IT FROM MY GRASP!

WAIT! BEFORE THIS NEEDLESS BATTLE CONTINUES, I ASK THAT YOU HEAR ME!

YOU JOKERS ARE ALL ALIKE! THE MINUTE THINGS GO AGAINST YOU ... YOU'RE SUDDENLY READY TO GO TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE!

BUT, SINCE I KNOW NOW I CAN LICK YOUR WEIGHT IN HOBBITS ANY DAY, I'LL LEND AN EAR!

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THEN, AS THE TRUSTING MUTANT BACKS CAUTIOUSLY *AWAY*...

I MEANT YOU NO *HARM*...BUT I COULD NOT AFFORD FOR THE SECRET OF MY PEOPLE TO BE *DISCOVERED!*

OH, YEAH.. WELL YOU'VE SURE GOT A FUNNY WAY OF *SHOWING* IT!

PERHAPS, BUT I CONCEAL A SECRET I MUST PROTECT WITH MY VERY *LIFE!*

THE SAGA OF A *LOST RACE* IS KNOWN TO ME *ALONE* AMONG ALL LIVING RACES...

...AND I COULD NOT LET IT BE DISCOVERED BY MERELY THE FIRST PERSON WHO STUMBLED ACROSS OUR *FORTRESS!*

YOU SEE, I AM *RESPONSIBLE* FOR THE EXTINCTION OF MY PEOPLE...AND THEREFORE I MUST GUARD THE SECRET OF THEIR FORMER EXISTENCE MOST *CAREFULLY!*

HOWEVER, SOMEHOW, I CAN SENSE THAT YOU *ALSO* ARE DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL HUMANS... THEREFORE, I SHALL *TELL* YOU OF THE LOST RACE OF *BIRDMEN!*

"WHEN I WAS BUT A TINY CHILD, MY PARENTS WERE ON A FLIGHT TO THE *UNITED STATES*, FROM THEIR FORMER HOME IN *EUROPE*...

"...WHICH FLEW INTO A VIOLENT *STORM!* THE LAST REPORT FROM THE PLANE STATED THAT IT WAS FLYING INTO A DENSE *CLOUD FORMATION!*"

"WHAT MEN COULD NEVER *KNOW* WAS THAT THE AIRCRAFT HAD FINALLY CRASH-LANDED IN THE DOMAIN OF THE *BIRD-PEOPLE* ...WHICH EXISTED ON AN *ISLAND IN THE SKY!*"

"UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO *SURVIVE* THE CRASH, AND...

BUT, EXCELLENCY...HE IS BUT A TINY *CHILD!* WE CAN RAISE HIM AS ONE OF OUR *OWN!*

VERY WELL... BUT YOU WILL EVER BE *RESPONSIBLE* FOR HIS ACTIONS!

"I GREW TO MANHOOD WITHOUT EVER SUSPECTING THAT I WAS DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE...UNTIL, ON MY *TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY...*"

TODAY I AM A *MAN!* BUT, ON THIS DAY I *ALSO* REALIZE I'M NOT ONE OF YOU

I AM FORCED TO BELIEVE THAT, SOMEHOW, I AM ACTUALLY THE OFFSPRING OF ONE OF THE ACCURSED *EARTHMEN*...THOSE WHOM YOU PLAN TO *OBLITERATE!*

THEREFORE, IT IS MY WISH TO CONVINCE YOU TO LEAVE THE EARTHMEN, IN *PEACE!*

YOU SEE, THOSE WHO HAD RAISED ME INTENDED TO ATTACK THOSE WHO WERE MY *BLOOD RELATIVES*...

I CAN SEE *THAT*... BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'RE DOING *HERE*...*NOW*!

...AND, OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS UP TO ME TO *PREVENT* THIS FROM HAPPENING!

I AM JUST *COMING* TO THAT!

AFTER THE *CITIZENS' COUNCIL* HAD TURNED ME DOWN, I WENT TO OUR *LEADER*!

I HOPED THAT SURELY *HE* COULD SEE THE FOLLY OF ATTACKING THE EARTH...THAT HE COULD SEE IT WOULD ONLY LEAD TO THE TOTAL *DESTRUCTION* OF OUR RACE!

BUT, EVEN HE WOULD NOT *HEAR* ME! INSTEAD, HE SAID...

YOUR POINTS ARE *WELL-TAKEN*...BUT I CANNOT *BELIEVE* THEM!

FOR YOU SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THOSE TO WHOM YOU WERE *BORN*... AND I CAN ONLY FEEL YOUR LOYALTY TO *BLOOD* IS STRONGER THAN THAT TO THOSE WHO *REARED* YOU!

BUT, SIRE...SURELY YOU REALIZE THE EARTHLINGS *OUTNUMBER* US...THAT THEY CAN EASILY *CRUSH* OUR INVADING FORCES!

I REALIZE NO SUCH *THING*! NOW...*BEGONE* WITH YOU!

"HOWEVER, AS OUR INVADING ARMIES PREPARED FOR THE *ATTACK*..."

I CANNOT LET THIS *HAPPEN*!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO *STOP* IT!

YOU WILL BOARD *SHIP X-16*...WHICH WILL LAUNCH THE INVASION AGAINST THE *UNITED STATES*!

THOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WILL RETALIATE *STRONGLY*... THERE IS THE EVEN *GREATER* CHANCE THAT THE ELEMENT OF *SURPRISE* WILL RENDER THEM *HELPLESS*!

BUT, THERE IS ONLY *ONE WAY*... AND, MUCH AS IT *GRIEVES* ME, I MUST *RESORT* TO IT!

"THEN, BEFORE OUR INVASION FORCES COULD BE *LAUNCHED*..."

THOUGH IT PAINS ME TO *DO* THIS...

I KNOW THAT I *MUST!*"

LITTLE DID OUR LEADERS EVER *DREAM* THAT THE *SUSPENDED ANIMATION GAS* WOULD EVER BE USED TO DEFEAT OUR OWN *KIND!*

"THE GAS VALVES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO *SAVE* OUR RACE... SHOULD WE EVER BE *DEFEATED* IN WAR..."

"BUT I HAD USED THE GAS TO STOP OUR RACE FROM A WAR WHICH COULD ONLY *EVENTUALLY* LEAD TO ITS EXTINCTION!"

"FINALLY, WHEN ALL OUR LEGIONS HAD BEEN *OVERCOME* BY THE GAS, I PLACED THEM IN SPECIAL CHAMBERS WHICH WOULD KEEP THEM *ALIVE*, BUT TOTALLY INACTIVE...

"AND I THEN PRESSED THE BUTTON WHICH SEPARATED OUR MILITARY COMPLEX FROM THE *REMAINDER* OF OUR *CONTINENT IN THE SKY...*"

...WHICH IN TURN ACTIVATED A DEVICE WHICH DROPPED THE ISOLATED ISLAND INTO A SAFE PLACE WHERE IT WOULD NEVER BE *DISCOVERED...*"

"...A PLACE THOUSANDS OF FATHOMS BENEATH THE EARTH'S *OCEANS*... WHERE THE LEGIONS WOULD *REST...*"

...UNTIL A DAY TWENTY YEARS *LATER* WHEN THEY WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE *AWAKENED!*

AND NOW, MY FRIEND, THAT MOMENT IS *UPON* US!

FOR ALL THESE MANY YEARS... I HAD ONLY TO AWAIT THE MEN'S AWAKENING! AND NOW, I KNOW THAT TIME IS *UPON* US!

THEREFORE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL *MANKIND*, I MUST SINK THE ISLAND AND START THE CYCLE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION *OVER* AGAIN!

OTHERWISE... EARTH MAY BE *DOOMED!*

BUT... YOU JUST CAN'T CONDEMN ALL THIS TO *OBLIVION!* IT'S TOO *IMPORTANT!*

THINK WHAT MEN MIGHT LEARN FROM *STUDYING* YOUR PEOPLE!

I *HAVE* CONSIDERED THAT ASPECT... BUT IT IS HEAVILY OVERWEIGHED BY THE *DANGER* IT MIGHT PRESENT TO YOUR PEOPLE!

GET SERIOUS! WHAT HARM CAN A COUPLE OF HUNDRED BIRDMEN DO TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE *UNITED STATES?*

HMMM... PERHAPS YOU ARE *RIGHT!* PERHAPS IF I ALLOWED THEM TO *AWAKEN*...

BUT, I *CANNOT!* THE RISK IS *TOO GREAT!*

THEREFORE, I MUST ASK THAT YOU *FORGIVE* ME... FOR DOING WHAT MUST BE *DONE!*

=ARRGGGHH!=

THERE... IT IS *DONE!* THOUGH YOU MAY NEVER *UNDERSTAND* MY ACTIONS... AT LEAST *I* WILL KNOW THAT I *SAVED* YOU!

AND NOW, I MUST MAKE THE FINAL *PREPARATIONS* FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN TO THE ONLY WORLD YOU *KNOW!*

A SINGLE BLAST FROM MY *ANTI-GRAVITY GUN* WILL ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN *AFLOAT*...

...WHILE THE ISLAND YOU LIE ON SINKS BACK INTO THE OCEAN'S *EBONY DEPTHS!*

AAAK!

AND NOW, I MUST MANIPULATE THE CONTROLS WHICH WILL SEND MY PEOPLE INTO ANOTHER *TWENTY-YEAR SLEEP!*

PERHAPS BY THE TIME THEY AWAKEN *AGAIN*... THE EARTH WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO BE *ASSURED* OF REPELLING THEIR INVASION!

THEN, WITHIN BUT A FRACTION OF A *SECOND*...

I HAVE *SUCCEEDED!* THE ISLAND BEGINS TO ONCE AGAIN SINK BENEATH THE *WAVES!*

ONCE MORE, THE BLOOD OF MY BLOOD... THE FLESH OF MY FLESH, IS SAVED FROM AN INVASION MORE TERRIBLE THAN THEY EVER COULD *IMAGINE!*

THEN, AS ONCE AGAIN THE HEAVENS OPEN AND TERRIFYING BOLTS OF ELECTRIC ENERGY ILLUMINATE THE SKIES... A TINY BIT OF LAND KNOWN TO HAVE EXISTED ONLY BY *THE ANGEL*... BEGINS TO SINK BENEATH THE WAVES!

LEAVING BEHIND ONLY A SMALL SHEET OF *WOOD*... AND ITS LONELY, CONFUSED *PASSENGER*...

THE ISLAND... IT'S *GONE*... ...AND SO'S THE *RED RAVEN!*

HE MUST HAVE SET ME *ADRIFT*... AND THEN *DESTROYED* IT!

BUT, SOMEHOW, I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL MEET *AGAIN*... AND THAT I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO *THANK* HIM... FOR *SPARING* ME!

I'LL HAVE TO BROOD OVER THAT *LATER*, THOUGH!

FOR THE *MOMENT*, I HAVE A MISSION TO COMPLETE FOR THE *X-MEN!*

AND, NO MATTER WHAT I'LL *REACH* THE AVENGERS ...AND BRING THEM TO THE *AID* OF MY COMRADES!

THE WORLD MUST SOMEHOW BE *SAVED* FROM MAGNETO... AND THAT'S A TASK WHICH RESTS SOLELY UPON MY *WINGS!*

NEXT ISH: CYCLOPS VS. QUICKSILVER!

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THE ORIGINS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

IT IS A COOL FALL NIGHT IN 1963! THE PLACE IS A SMALL TOWN IN NASSAU COUNTY...

I JUST NEVER GET TIRED OF "WEST SIDE STORY," BOBBY--EVEN THOUGH THIS MAKES THE THIRD TIME I'VE SEEN IT!

YEAH! THAT NATALIE WOOD IS SOMETHING ELSE!

BUT I CAN'T DENY THAT SEEING IT WITH YOU MADE IT EVEN BETTER, JUDY!

YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE ONLY DATED A FEW TIMES--I ALREADY FEEL I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN ANYONE!

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO REALLY MATTERS TO ME!

BOBBY--ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT... YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME?

BUT, ALAS, WE ARE NEVER TO KNOW BOBBY DRAKE'S ANSWER--FOR, AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT...

BOBBY...LOOK OUT! =;OOOHHHHHH!=

GET 'IM, GUYS! WE'RE GONNA HAVE US SOME KICKS!

=HUH...?=

HEY...NOT SO ROUGH, BUG-EYE! LEAVE SOMETHIN' FOR ME TO FIGHT!

AFTER ALL, THE IDEA'A THIS THING IS FOR ME TO SHOW MISS HARMON JUST WHO THE REAL MAN AROUND HERE IS!

AND, WITH THAT PERFUNCTORY PROLOGUE, WE CAN ONLY WARN YOU MUTANT-WATCHERS TO HANG LOOSE--FOR NOW...

"THE ICEMAN COMETH!"

PRODUCED BY STAN LEE WRITTEN BY GARY FRIEDRICH DRAWN BY GEORGE TUSKA
INKED BY JOHN VERPOORTEN LETTERED BY ARTIE SIMEK

ROCKY BEASELY! I SHOULD'A GUESSED!

HEY, ROCK--DON'T THAT SOUND LIKE AN *INSULT?* YOU RECKON THIS PUNK WANTS TO *FIGHT?*

WELL, IF HE *DOES* --I'M JUST THE MAN TO CRUSH HIS SKULL FOR 'IM!

NOW *HOLD IT,* MAN! STUPIDITY ISN'T ONE OF MY *LIABILITIES!*

HUH... WHY DON'TCHA SPEAK IN *ENGLISH?*

BUT, ON SECOND THOUGHT, IT DON'T MAKE NO *DIFFERENCE*-- 'CAUSE WE JUST CAME TO GET ROCK'S *GAL!*

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT *THAT,* BUG-EYE! YOU JUST TAKE CARE'A THE *PUNK!*

BOBBY... *HELP ME... PLEASE!*

I *CAN'T,* JUDY! THOSE GUYS'D *PULVERIZE* ME...UNLESS...

...NO, I MUSTN'T USE MY *MUTANT POWERS!* I JUST *CAN'T...*BUT...

I DON'T HAVE ANY *CHOICE!* I'LL HAVE TO *RISK* IT!

GET YOUR HANDS OFF... EEEEEEEEEEE!

WHAT IN... HE COVERED ROCK WITH *SNOW!* HE JUST TOSSED IT FROM HIS *HAND!*

I DON'T KNOW HOW HE *DID* IT-- BUT I AINT STICKIN' AROUND TO *FIND OUT!*

THEN, AS THE HOODLUMS FLEE IN *TERROR*...

IT'S *ALL RIGHT* NOW, JUDY! THEY WON'T BOTHER US ANY...

YOU...YOU FROZE ROCKY *STIFF*... LIKE YOU HAD SOME...SOME *MAGICAL POWER!*

IT WAS...THE MOST FRIGHTENING THING I'VE EVER *SEEN!* I...I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! YOU'RE...*TOO DANGEROUS!*

BUT, JUDY...I DID IT TO *SAVE* YOU! THOSE THUGS WERE GOING TO...*JUDY!*

MY PARENTS WERE *RIGHT!* I SHOULD NEVER HAVE *REVEALED* MY POWERS... *REGARDLESS* OF THE REASON!

THEN, AS THE CONFUSED YOUNG MUTANT RUSHES FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS *HOME*, THE WORD OF HIS EXISTENCE SPREADS THROUGH THE SMALL TOWN LIKE A RAGING FIRE THROUGH A DROUGHT-STRICKEN *FOREST*...

THAT'S RIGHT...THE DRAKE BOY FROZE YOUNG BEASELY *SOLID*...WITH SOME SORT OF *MUTANT POWERS!*

ANYONE WITH THAT KIND OF BLACK MAGIC AT HIS DISPOSAL MUST BE... *DESTROYED!*

I TELL YOU, MARTHA...WE CAN'T RISK THIS HAPPENIN' AGAIN! THAT BOY HAS TO BE *LOCKED UP!*

THAT'S *RIGHT*, GEORGE! WE'RE ALL MEETING IN THE *TOWN SQUARE!* THEN, WE'RE GONNA GO *AFTER* THAT... THAT *MUTANT!*

WHILE, AT THAT SAME MOMENT...

MOM AND DAD *WARNED* ME THAT NORMAL PEOPLE WOULDN'T *UNDERSTAND*...

BUT I COULD NEVER *BELIEVE* THEM! NOW I'M NOT *SURE!* GOTTA GET HOME AND *TALK* TO THEM!

AND, ONLY MINUTES LATER, A BREATHLESS, PANIC-STRICKEN TEENAGER BURSTS INTO HIS *HOME*...

MOM...DAD! I NEED YOUR *HELP!*

I...I *PANICKED*... AND USED MY *FREEZING ABILITIES!*

YES! I WAS WITH *JUDY*... AND I THINK I FROZE *ROCKY BEASELY!* A COUPLE OF HIS *FRIENDS* SAW IT, TOO!

BOBBY! YOU'RE WHITE AS A GHOST! WHAT ON EARTH'S THE *MATTER*, SON?

OH, MY GOD... DID ANYBODY *SEE* YOU?

THEN, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF *TOWN*--BEFORE...

BUT, DAD--SURELY PEOPLE WILL *UNDERSTAND!* ROCKY WAS TRYING TO *HURT* JUDY, AND...

YOU'RE ABOUT TO *LEARN* HOW MUCH THEY'LL UNDERSTAND, SON! I HEAR *PEOPLE* OUT FRONT!

THEN, AS THE BEWILDERED ROBERT DRAKE STEPS ONTO HIS *FRONT PORCH*...

GET OUTTA THE *WAY*, DRAKE! WE GOT NO BEEF WITH *YOU!*

MAYBE NOT--BUT ANYONE WHO WANTS TO HARM MY *SON*... IS GONNA HAVE TO GO OVER *ME* TO DO IT!

IF THAT'S HOW YOU *WANT* IT, DRAKE! COME ON, MEN--LET'S GET THAT *FREAK!*

WHILE, *INSIDE* THE HOUSE...

THEY'RE LIKE *WILD ANIMALS*, MOM! THEY'RE CRAZED WITH *FEAR!* THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE *DOING!*

THAT WON'T MAKE MUCH *DIFFERENCE* TO THEM... IF THEY GET THEIR *HANDS* ON YOU!

SUDDENLY...

THERE HE IS, BOYS! GRAB 'IM!

DON'T TRY NO *FUNNY STUFF*, BOY! WE'RE WISE TO YOUR *MAGIC TRICKS*--AND THEY AIN'T GONNA *SAVE* YOU!

BUT, AS THE MOB *CLOSES IN*...

HEY...LOOK OUT! HE'S...;*AARRGGHHH!*;

GET BACK! ALL OF YOU! CAN'T YOU SEE I DON'T WANT TO *HURT* YOU!

;*OOWWWW!*; YOU GOT A FUNNY WAY'A *SHOWIN'* IT!

AND YOU'VE ALL GOT A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING YOUR BELIEFS IN *DEMOCRACY*...

...AND IN A MAN'S RIGHT TO A *FAIR TRIAL!*

IF YOU'LL ALL *LEAVE*... AND SEND THE *SHERIFF* FOR ME... I'LL SURRENDER AND GO *PEACEFULLY!*

YOU'LL GO *ANYWAY*, BUDDY!

WE GOT 'IM NOW, BOYS!

JUST HOLD *STILL*, KID-- AND WE'LL *TAKE* YOU TO THE SHERIFF!

THEN, WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE MYSTERIOUS TEENAGER IS HUSTLED INTO A WAITING CAR-- AND IS RUSHED TOWARD THE NEARBY *COUNTY JAIL*...

...LITTLE DREAMING THAT HIS SITUATION IS NOT SO *DESPERATE* AS HE MAY THINK!

FOR, THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN *NEW YORK'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY*...

I THINK WE MAY HAVE FOUND OUR NEXT *STUDENT*, SCOTT!

TIMES & TIMES

I *KNOW*, PROFESSOR! I ALREADY *READ* ABOUT IT!

SHALL I GO *AFTER* HIM?

HOWEVER, BEFORE THE MAN CALLED PROFESSOR-X CAN *ANSWER* LET US RETURN TO THE *NASSAU COUNTY JAIL*...

WHY AM I SO *WORRIED*? I'M ENTITLED TO A *TRIAL*--AND I *KNOW* THAT I'M NOT *GUILTY!*

I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP *JUDY*--AND THEY SURE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME JUST BECAUSE I'M *DIFFERENT* FROM MOST PEOPLE...

...CAN THEY?

BUT, PERHAPS BOBBY DRAKE WILL NEVER *KNOW*-- FOR, SEVERAL HOURS LATER, AS HE SITS BROODING IN IS *CELL*...

WHAT IN....?

ZAP!

NEXT: *ENTER CYCLOPS!*